

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-11 (cancelled)

Claim 12 (currently amended): A tape drive with a storage cartridge disposed therein, comprising:

- a storage cartridge housing having:

- a single supply reel rotatably disposed within the storage cartridge housing and having storage tape wound on the supply reel,

- only a single access window for allowing a tape drive access to the storage tape wound on the supply reel for reading or writing to the storage tape, and

- only a single guide surface disposed within the storage cartridge housing, wherein the guide surface is positioned within the storage cartridge housing to guide the storage tape away from the supply reel and then back to reengage tape of the supply reel before extending to the access window; and

- a tape drive having:

- at least a first guiding element,

- a data transducer, and

- a take-up reel, wherein

- the storage tape is guided within the tape drive along a tape path passing adjacent a data transducer, and wound on the take-up reel, wherein the storage tape passes adjacent the data transducer along the tape path between at least the first guiding element and the take-up reel.

Claim 13 (original): The device of claim 12, wherein the guide surface includes a rotatable surface.

Claim 14 (original): The device of claim 12, wherein the guide surface includes a stationary surface.

Claim 15 (original): The device of claim 12, wherein the guide surface includes a contoured surface.

Claim 16 (cancelled)

Claim 17 (original): The device of claim 12, wherein the data transducer includes at least one of a read head and a write head.

Claim 18 (cancelled)

Claim 19 (original): The device of claim 12, wherein the storage tape includes a leader block adapted to be releasably attached to the take-up reel.

Claims 20-28 (cancelled)

Claim 29 (currently amended): A method for driving a data storage tape cartridge, comprising the acts of:

receiving a data storage cartridge within a tape drive, wherein the storage cartridge includes a housing with a supply reel rotatably disposed therein and only a single guide surface; ~~wherein the storage cartridge comprises only a single access window for allowing the tape drive access to a storage tape wound on the supply reel for reading or writing to the storage tape;~~ and

linearly streaming a the storage tape along a tape path from the supply reel of the storage cartridge, adjacent a data transducer located in the tape drive, and to a take-up reel of the tape drive, wherein

the data transducer is located along the tape path between a first guiding element of the tape drive and the take-up reel of the tape drive, and

the guide surface is positioned within the housing to guide the storage tape away from supply reel and back to reengage tape of the supply reel before extending to an access window of the housing.

Claim 30 (original): The method of claim 29, wherein the guide surface includes a rotatable surface.

Claim 31 (original): The method of claim 29, wherein the guide surface includes a stationary surface.

Claim 32 (original): The method of claim 29, wherein the guide surface includes a contoured surface.

Claim 33 (cancelled)

Claim 34 (previously presented): The method of claim 29, wherein when streaming the storage tape, the storage tape becomes separated from the reel by a thin layer of air.

Claim 35 (original): The method of claim 29, further including a second guide surface disposed within the housing, wherein the storage tape extends to a second guide surface before extending to the access window.

Claims 36-37 (cancelled)

Claim 38 (previously presented): A tape drive with a storage cartridge disposed therein, comprising:

- a storage cartridge housing having:

- an access window,

- a supply reel rotatably disposed within the storage cartridge housing and having storage tape wound on the supply reel, and

only a single guide surface disposed within the storage cartridge housing, wherein the guide surface is positioned within the storage cartridge housing to guide the storage tape away from the supply reel and then back to reengage tape of the supply reel before extending to the access window; and

a tape drive having:

at least a first guiding element,

a data transducer, and

a take-up reel, wherein

the storage tape is guided within the tape drive along a tape path passing adjacent a data transducer, and wound on the take-up reel, wherein the storage tape passes adjacent the data transducer along the tape path between at least the first guiding element and the take-up reel.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The device of claim 38, wherein the access window of the cartridge housing is the only access window for allowing the tape drive access to the storage tape wound on the supply reel for reading or writing to the storage tape.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The device of claim 38, wherein the guide surface includes a rotatable surface.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The device of claim 38, wherein the guide surface includes a stationary surface.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The device of claim 38, wherein the guide surface includes a contoured surface.